

Colleagues, Fellow Veterans, School Certifying Officials, School Veteran Advocates and our SAA Partners,

Again, thank you. Thank you for wonderful spirit of cooperation and collaboration these past few years. Together we have provided over \$46 billion in Post-9/11 GI Bill® benefits to over 1,300,000 Veterans, Servicemembers and their family members in the past five years or so.

Most of you are very familiar with the Presidential Executive Order 13607: Establishing Principles of Excellence ([http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/principles\\_of\\_excellence.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/principles_of_excellence.asp)). It requires us to develop and publish Veteran student outcome measures to help Veterans, Servicemembers and their family members make the most informed decisions regarding their education options. VA, the Department of Education (ED), and Department of Defense (DoD) worked together to identify outcome measures that will support Veterans, Servicemembers and their family members in making informed decisions.

In January 2015, we hope to begin reporting these outcome measures using the enrollment and graduation/program completion information reported by your educational institution through VA-Once. Prior to publishing the outcome measures for your school, we will give you a preview of the measures for your school. We'll be asking for your timely feedback so that accurate information can be published. Additional information about the joint outcome measures is available on College Navigator at <http://nces.ed.gov/statprog/outcomemeasures>.

We all know, the data we publish will only be as good as the data we receive. We need your help with collecting the most current and accurate information on Veterans, Servicemembers, and their family members attending your institution. Back in June 2011, we requested institutions begin voluntary reporting of graduation/program completion data using VA-Once. We are asking for your focused support in reporting this information going forward.

In order to provide the most accurate information, we are requesting your institution to report graduation/program completion and certain degree/certificate completion information on all Veterans, Servicemembers and their family members in receipt of Post-9/11 GI Bill® benefits. If your institution has elected not to report any or all instances of graduation/program completion, we won't be able to report accurate graduation/program completion rates for your institution and fulfill our obligation to our Veterans.

If your institution has questions about the process to report accurate data, please email us at [outcomemeasures.vbavaco@va.gov](mailto:outcomemeasures.vbavaco@va.gov) or contact your Education Liaison Representative (ELR). ELR contact information can be found at the following web link: [http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/resources/education\\_resources/school\\_certifying\\_officials/elr.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/resources/education_resources/school_certifying_officials/elr.asp)

I'm sure we all agree that with our continued collaboration, we can develop and refine meaningful performance metrics. We know that our initial results may not be a direct reflection on the actual performance of Veterans and schools. We know that many Veterans (et al) may find graduation and completion outside of the GI Bill for a number of reasons. We cannot account for all of those who may not be reflected in what is in our database. This will be an iterative process, a journey we hope to make together.

Again, thank you for your support and help.

V/R

Curtis L. Coy  
Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity  
Veterans Benefits Administration  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

**VA Core Values: Integrity, Commitment, Advocacy, Respect, Excellence (“I CARE”)**

**Please Remember:**

- If you would like to review prior messages sent through this listserv, click [http://benefits.va.gov/vow/economic\\_opportunity.htm](http://benefits.va.gov/vow/economic_opportunity.htm).
- If you would like to research, find, access, and, in time, manage your VA benefits and personal information please visit and/or register at <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits-portal/ebenefits.portal>.
- If you looking for a job or an employer committed to hiring Veterans, please register on the Veterans Employment Center (VEC) at: <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/jobs>
- If you are seeking employment in the federal government, particularly the VA, our VA for Vets high-tech tools and resources can help. Visit online at <http://vaforvets.va.gov/vaforvets/jobseekers/Pages/default.asp> or call 1-855-824-8387.

If you would like to contact us about your VA education benefits:

You can send us a secure email that will usually be answered within 48 hours. You can also search for answers to frequently asked questions and register to be notified of any updates to the information. This contact method is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and can also be utilized worldwide. Click here to enter the "Ask A Question" site or here to review our frequently asked questions.

You can call 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551). This line only accepts calls from 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM central time Monday – Friday.